

faculty over and above its annual permitted strength so that the number of seats excluding those reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward classes is not less than the number of such seats available for the academic session immediately preceding the date of the coming into force of this act. The institute-wise details of the increase in seats is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Quarterly review of education schemes

607. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the progress of Centrally sponsored education schemes quarterly;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the names of the States lagging behind in achieving the aim and objectives of each of such schemes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to speed up the progress of each of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While there is no formal quarterly review mechanism for every Centrally Sponsored education Scheme, some of the schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-day Meal Scheme (MMS) are being reviewed with the States on a quarterly basis. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has a system of quarterly review with states to track financial progress and progress on key indicators. The Government of India provides capacity building in specific areas for states which show weak performance in certain areas under SSA and also takes up the matter with concerned Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers of the states. The Mid-day Meal Programme also has a system of Quarterly Review, which elicits information *inter-alia* on the (a) periodicity of the meetings of the Steering cum Monitoring Committees; and the main decision taken therein, (b) the major problem encountered during the quarter; and (c) the evaluation studies undertaken during the quarter.